

Begin - April 30, 1961

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(400) AIRLIFT

WASHINGTON, APRIL 30 (AP)-AN ELEVENTH-HOUR PULLBACK TODAY KEPT SOME 6,000 COMBAT READY TROOPS OF THE UNITED STATES MM HOME GROUND, INSTEAD OF WINGING THEIR WAY TO EUROPE ON A TRAINING MISSION. THUS THEY WERE READY FOR POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD.

SOME 300 OCEAN-HOPPING TRANSPORT PLANES WERE READY TO START THE JOB OF MOVING THE TROOPS TO GERMANY FROM FT. CAMPBELL, N.Y. FOR A NATO EXERCISE WHEN THE MOVEMENT WAS ABRUPTLY CANCELLED, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

THE CALL-OFF STEMMED DIRECTLY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL YESTERDAY, AT WHICH THE LAOS SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED.

THE TROOPS WERE TO HAVE TAKEN PART IN "OPERATION LONG THRUST" THE BIGGEST PLANNED OVERSEAS TRAINING MANEUVER OF THE STRATEGIC ARMY CORPS (STRAC), THE TACTICAL AIR COMMAND'S MOBILE STRIKE FORCE OF JET FIGHTERS AND FIGHTER BOMBERS, AND SWARMS OF LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTS OF THE MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND.

A TIGHT SECRECY PREVAILED AT THE PENTAGON OVER THE SLIGHTEST DETAILS ABOUT THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OR PLANS FOR FUTURE DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS, SHIPS OR PLANES.

CANCELLATION OF "OPERATION LONG THRUST" HAD BEEN KEPT SECRET FOR SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE WORD LEAKED OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN HALTED. PENTAGON OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THE CALL-OFF IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS.

THE FACT THE TRAINING EXERCISE WAS ABOUT TO START HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED AND GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD.

PURPOSE OF THE 15-DAY NATO EXERCISE, IN WHICH FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN TROOPS WERE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE, WAS TO CHECK ON NATO'S ABILITY TO AUGMENT EUROPEAN DEFENSIVE FORCES ON SHORT ORDER.

THE FIRST HOP FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE CARRIED THE TROOPS FROM FT. CAMPBELL, KY., TO FRANKFURT AND LATER TO SOUTHERN GERMANY.

THE READILY AVAILABLE GROUND FORCES FOR RAPID STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT CONSIST OF THREE DIVISIONS OF STRAC, PLUS SMALLER UNITS, AND A MARINE DIVISION, WHICH, HOWEVER, IS USED PARTLY FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.

AN OFFICIAL ARMY DESCRIPTION OF THE MISSION OF STRAC SAYS:

"UNDER THIS CONCEPT, COMBAT READY ARMY FORCES ARE MAINTAINED IN THE UNITED STATES, PREPARED FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT TO ANY AREA OF THE WORLD. SUCH DEPLOYMENT MAY TAKE PLACE EITHER IN CONTINUATION OF THE COLD WAR OR AS PART OF HOSTILITIES SHORT OF GENERAL WAR."

"THE UTILIZATION OF STRAC FORCES IN THIS COLD WAR ERA IS FOR THE SUPPORT OR RESTORATION OF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AND THE DENIAL OF SELECTED OBJECTIVE AREAS TO A POTENTIAL ENEMY."

SR838PED

A116

AP FOREIGN SERVICE ADVANCE FOR MONDAY AMS, MAY 1

(550)

BY STAN CARTER

(ADVANCE) VERONA, ITALY, APRIL 30 (AP)-AMERICAN AND ITALIAN MISSILE BATTALIONS, TOGETHER WITH ITALIAN MOUNTAIN INFANTRY AND AMERICAN ENGINEERS WITH BLACK BOXES OF ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES, GIVE THE IMPRESSION THEY COULD HOLD OFF ANY ADVANCING ARMY FROM AT LEAST ONE CORNER OF WESTERN EUROPE.

A LOOK AT NATO'S SMALL BUT VERSATILE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN TASK FORCE (SETAF) IN FIELD MANEUVERS GIVES REASON TO BELIEVE EVEN THE SOVIET ARMY WOULD HAVE TROUBLE IN THIS PART OF THE CONTINENT, WITH OR WITHOUT

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5,000-MILE ROCKETS.

SOME U.S. 1,500-MILE JUPITER ROCKETS AND HYDROGEN WARHEADS ARE LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THIS COUNTRY, AND COULD BE FIRED IN TIME OF WAR.

THE WARTIME JOB OF SETAF, IN NORTHEASTERN ITALY, WOULD BE TO SUPPORT WITH TACTICAL ATOMIC WEAPONS THE ITALIAN TROOPS DEFENDING WESTERN BASES IN THIS COUNTRY. THE 8,000-MAN AMERICAN-ITALIAN FORCE IS COMPARABLE TO THE WORLD WAR II ARTILLERY UNITS ASSIGNED TO PROVIDE EXTRA FIREPOWER WHERE NEEDED.

SETAF'S TWO AMERICAN BATTALIONS HAVE CORPORAL MISSILES, WITH A 75-MILE RANGE, AND ATOMIC WARHEADS. THE MISSILES, MOUNTED ON BIG TRUCK-TRAILERS, CAN BE FIRED FROM DOZENS OF HIDING PLACES IN THE TOWNS AND WOODS OF THE PLAINS SOUTH OF THE ALPS.

THE TASK FORCE'S ITALIAN BRIGADE HAS SMALLER HONEST JOHN MISSILES WITH A 15-MILE RANGE. THEY ALSO CAN BE FITTED WITH ATOMIC WARHEADS AND FIRED FROM ALMOST ANY MOUNTAIN VALLEY WHERE THERE IS A DIRT ROAD.

IN AN EXERCISE CONDUCTED BY SETAF LAST WEEK THE TRUCK-MOUNTED HONEST JOHNS MOVED INTO POSITION NORTH OF UDINE, WITHIN A FEW MILES OF THE YUGOSLAV BORDER. THEY WERE SO WELL CAMOUFLAGED THEY WERE DIFFICULT TO SPOT 100 FEET AWAY. THREE U.S. ENLISTED MEN TRAVEL WITH EACH MISSILE. THEY WOULD HAVE CUSTODY OF ANY ATOMIC WARHEADS SENT TO THE FRONT.

AN AMERICAN ENGINEER COMPANY WOULD HAVE THE TASK IN WARTIME OF USING ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES TO BLOW UP THE ALPINE MOUNTAIN PASSES LEADING TO ITALY. THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGE, KEPT IN A BLACK BOX, WOULD BE PLACED IN ONE OF THE HUNDREDS OF MOUNTAIN CAVES ALREADY MAPPED BY THE ENGINEERS. THEY WOULD THEN SPEED A DOZEN MILES AWAY BY HELICOPTER OR TRUCK AND DETONATE THE ATOMIC CHARGES BY RADIO.

IN THE WAR GAMES THE MISSILEMEN AND ENGINEERS ASSUMED THAT AN ENEMY FORCE HAD SUDDENLY ATTACKED WESTERN EUROPE. THE MAIN ENEMY THRUST WAS AT WEST GERMANY. A SECONDARY THRUST ACROSS NEUTRAL AUSTRIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WAS AIMED AT ITALY.

FOR ANYONE WHO HASN'T BEEN WITH AN ARTILLERY OUTFIT SINCE THE KOREAN WAR, ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MISSILE AGE IS THE MEANS ADOPTED TO LOCATE DISTANT TARGETS OUT OF SIGHT OF THE ARTILLERY FORWARD OBSERVERS.

SETAF HAS TWIN-ENGINE BEACHCRAFT PLANES EQUIPPED WITH CAMERAS THAT TAKE PICTURES AT NIGHT AND IN BAD WEATHER, BY RADAR.

FIVE-MAN AMERICAN-ITALIAN PARACHUTIST TEAMS ALSO WOULD BE DROPPED BEHIND ENEMY LINES WITH RADIO TRANSMITTERS FROM SINGLE-ENGINE ARMY PLANES. IN THEORY THEY WOULD BE PICKED UP LATER BY HELICOPTER OR ADVANCING TROOPS. BUT A 23-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN SERGEANT LEADING ONE OF

THE TEAMS SAID NONCHALANTLY HIS MEN RECOGNIZED THEIR CHANCES IN WAR WOULD BE "ABOUT 50-50".

FOR SAFE DAYLIGHT OBSERVATION SETAF HAS 24 RADIO-CONTROLLED DRONE PLANES EQUIPPED WITH AERIAL CAMERAS.

THE PILOTLESS DRONES, PAINTED BRIGHT RED AND DARTING BACK AND FORTH WITH A BUZZ LIKE A BUMBLEBEE'S, ARE CONTROLLED FROM THE GROUND. WHEN THEY HAVE TAKEN THEIR PICTURES AND RETURNED, A RADIO SIGNAL CUTS OFF THEIR ENGINE AND A PARACHUTE BRINGS THEM TO EARTH, WHERE MEN ARE WAITING TO DEVELOP THE FILM.

END ADVANCE FOR AMS OF MAY 1, MOVED APRIL 29.

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A16WX

ADVANCE FOR 2:30 P.M. EST TODAY
(350) ELLENDER-NATO

(ADVANCE) WASHINGTON, APRIL 30 (AP)-SEN. ALLEN J. ELLENDER, D-LA., SAID TODAY THAT IF AMERICA'S NATO ALLIES REFUSE TO ASSUME A GREATER SHARE OF THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE THE UNITED STATES SHOULD DEAL WITH THE RUSSIANS ALONE.

ELLENDER SAID THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION "IS IN A BAD WAY NOW" AND THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WILL HAVE MORE DIFFICULTY RE-BUILDING IT THAN HE CONTEMPLATES.

THE GENERALS' REVOLT IN ALGERIA AGAINST FRANCE, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DEFEATED, ELLENDER SAID, "WILL SIMPLY ADD MORE FUEL TO EXISTING FIRE THERE."

IN A TAPED RADIO INTERVIEW (RADIO NEWS CONFERENCE, A NON-NETWORK, LOCAL OPTION PROGRAM) THE LOUISIANA SENATOR COMPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FORCED TO GO IT ALONE TO PUT OUT BRUSHFIRE CONFLICTS.

"WE DON'T CONSULT WITH FRANCE, WE DON'T CONSULT WITH THE BRITISH, WE DON'T CONSULT WITH GERMANY, WE DON'T CONSULT WITH ITALY, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE USELESS," ELLENDER SAID. "THEY HAVEN'T HELPED IN THE PAST."

BUT IN THIS COUNTRY'S DEALINGS WITH RUSSIA, HE SAID, "WE'VE HAD TO BOW" TO THE BRITISH, FRENCH, WEST GERMAN AND ITALIAN LEADERS.

"IT STRIKES ME," ELLENDER SAID, "THAT IF THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT WILLING TO . . . ADD TO THEIR PRESENT FORCES IN EUROPE AND TAKE AS MUCH PART IN THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE--IN THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM--AS WE DO, IT'S MY BELIEF THAT SINCE WE FURNISH ALL AND WE TAKE THE LEAD, WE SHOULD PROCEED TO MEET WITH MR. KHRUSHCHEV ALONE AND WITHOUT ASSISTANCE OF OUR ALLIES."

ELLENDER SAID HE HAD INDIRECTLY MADE SUCH A SUGGESTION TO KENNEDY BUT GOT FROM HIM ONLY A PROMISE TO CONSIDER IT.

THE PROBLEM, THE SENATOR SAID, IS THAT WE'VE BEEN UNABLE UP TO NOW TO GET OUR ALLIES ACROSS THE SEAS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN WESTERN EUROPE, TO SEE EYE-TO-EYE ON WHAT TO DO IN WESTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY EAST BERLIN. AND SOVIET PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV KNOWS THERE IS NO PROSPECT FOR SUCH AGREEMENT, HE ADDED.

"IT STRIKES ME," ELLENDER SAID, "THAT AS LONG AS WE PERMIT OUR SO-CALLED WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES TO HAVE THEIR HEADS ON OUR SHOULDER, AND EXPECT UNCLE SAM TO DO THE WHOLE JOB, THEY'LL CONTINUE TO DO SO."

DESPITE ALL WESTERN EFFORTS, HE SAID, RUSSIA HAS CONTINUED TO GROW STRONGER SO A NEW COURSE MUST BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH HER. TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT COURSE, ELLENDER SAID, WOULD MEAN "OUR WHOLE ECONOMY IS BOUND TO FALL BECAUSE OF THE HUGE DEBT THAT WE HAVE SADDLED ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

CALLING FOR MORE TRADE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES, ELLENDER SAID THE TIME IS NOW PAST FOR BARRING THE SALE OF U.S. STRATEGIC MATERIAL TO THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE OF THAT NATION'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

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